

Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15

NSC-05 /065 W

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R 180000Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2869

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MAMANA

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E O 11652 N A

TAGS EAIR, AS

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CONCORDE PROVIDING FLIGHTS TO AUSTRALIA

REFS: A) MELBOURNE 0364; B) MELBOURNE A-1, DATED JAN 24, 1975

1. CONGEN OFFICER HAD RECENT OPPORTUNITY FOR IN DEPTH DISCUSSION WITH MELBOURNE-BASED BRITISH CIVIL AIR ATTACHE CONCERNING UPCOMING SERIES OF 7 CONCORDE PROVING FLIGHTS FROM LONDON TO MELBOURNE, NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN WITH AUG 2 ARRIVAL AND END WITH AUG 12 DEPARTURE. ATTACHE STRUCK NOTE OF CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM, FEELING THAT AUSTRALIAN GOVT APPROVAL FOR ACTUAL TRICE WEEKLY LONDON-MELBOURNE COMMERICAL SERVICE - WHICH BRITISH HOPE TO BEGIN IN EARLY 1976 - WILL BE FORTHCOMING, DEPENDING, OF COURSE, ON ACTUAL RESULTS OF PROVING FLIGHTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF PERCEIVED NOISE LEVELS. (JULY 17 SUN REPORTS TRANSPORTATION DEPT WILL BE MONITORING SONIC BOOM ALONG TRANS-AUSTRALIA SUPERSONIC FLIGHT PATH AS WELL AS AIRPORT NOISE AT MELBOURNE'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TULLAMARINE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.) HE FELT THAT TECHNICAL

DATA ACQUIRED ON NOISE, AS WELL AS OTHER PROBLEM AREAS (OZONE DEPLETION, SMOKE) WOULD NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR ANTI-CONCORDE FORCES TO COUNTERACT CLEAR COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES FOR AUSTRALIA (PARTICULARLY MELBOURNE) OF SUCH FLIGHTS.

2. ATTACHE NOTED THAT PROJECTED 16 HOUR TOTAL LOND-MELBOURNE TIME FOR INITIAL PROVIDING FLIGHTS INCLUDING THE INTERMEDIATE STOPS WILL BE IMPROVED TO "UNDER 14 HOURS," ONCE SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS BEGIN. HE STATED THAT GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL FOR SUPERSONIC OPERATIONS OVER SAUDI ARABIA AND INDIA WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

3. ATTACHE, WHEN ASKED WHETHER OR NOT CONCORDE COULD TRANSIT LENGTHY SINGAPORE-MELBOURNE STAGE WITH VERY HIGH, OR 100 O/O LOAD FACTOR, SAID THIS WAS ONE OF PURPOSES OF TEST FLIGHTS. EVIDENTLY, PAYLOAD/RANGE TRADEOFF WILL BE OF SOME CONCERN TO BRITISH AIRWAYS ON THIS PARTICULAR LEG UNLESS AND UNTIL THERE IS SOME FURTHER SIGNIFICANT UPGRADING IN EFFICIENCY OF CONCORDE'S OLYMPUS ENGINES.

4. ATTACHE ALSO WAS GUARDED IN REMARKS CONCERNING EXTENT OF SURCHARGE OVER FIRST CLASS FARES NECESSARY TO OPERATE CONCORDE IN BLACK, SUGGESTING A 10 O/O FIGURE WITHOUT GREAT ENTHUSIASM, WITH IMPLICATION SURCHARGE COULD DEPEND ON COST AND LOAD FACTOR DATA DEVELOPED DURING ACTUAL OPERATIONS.
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